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Pesticides continue to contaminate US streams, USGS report says

Tuesday, March 22, 2016 by: Julie Wilson staff writer

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(NaturalNews) A new report compiled by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) concludes that different types of pesticides are showing up in America's streams and rivers, threatening our planet's innate aquatic life.

New research indicates that, while the presence of some chemicals in streams and rivers has decreased over the last decade due to new regulatory restrictions, newly developed pesticides, such as neonicotinoids and glyphosate, are now the biggest polluters of water.

About 90 percent of urban streams contained pesticide concentrations exceeding allowable levels for aquatic life, compared to only 50 percent in the previous decade.

The samples taken from the most recent decade show that *fewer* streams exceed the human health limits for pesticides, with only one stream exceeding the standard compared to 17 percent of agricultural streams in the previous decade.

However, water samples exceeded the recommended [pesticide](#) concentrations for aquatic life, causing adverse environmental impacts in birds, fish and insects. About two-thirds of agricultural streams and half of mixed-use streams contained pesticide concentrations exceeding the legal limit in both decades.

“Monsanto's pride and joy, glyphosate, increased in usage from about 350 million pounds of application per year in 1992 to nearly 450 million pounds in 2011, [according](#) ^[PDF] to USGS statistical analysis”.